

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a cast-coated paper, comprising the steps of:

applying a coating color comprising a pigment and an adhesive on one side of a base paper, ~~[[and]]~~

pressing/drying the coated layer in a wet state against a mirror surface of a casting drum, ~~wherein said process further comprises the step of and~~

adding moisture to the coated paper by ~~simultaneously~~ maintaining both sides of the cast-coated paper in an air which is conditioned at ~~20°C to 80°C, 50 to 95%~~20-80°C, 50-95% RH for 20 seconds or more and by blowing the conditioned air onto the both sides of the cast-coated surface and the opposite surface using a plurality of air nozzles, after pressing/drying the coated layer against a casting drum and before reeling.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 1, wherein wrinkles are prevented by using an expander roll during the hydration of the cast-coated paper by blowing conditioned air.

4. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 1, wherein said process further comprises the step of applying water or an aqueous solution or an aqueous dispersion of a pigment or the like onto the opposite surface to the cast-coated surface and drying it immediately after pressing/drying the coated layer against a casting drum and before maintaining the coated paper in the conditioned air.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper, comprising: (1) a coater head for applying a coating color comprising a pigment and an adhesive on one side of a base paper, (2) a casting drum for pressing/drying the coated layer in a wet state against a mirror surface of a casting drum-~~mirror surface~~, and (3) a conditioned chamber having an inlet and an outlet for a web of cast-coated paper in this order, ~~wherein said chamber has a plurality of air nozzles for blowing air onto both sides of the web region, which sides are exposed to an atmosphere and~~

wherein said chamber is connected to a blower for sending conditioned air into said chamber and has a conditioned air vent, whereby said chamber is conditioned at 20°C - 80°C, 50 - 95% RH and both sides of said web is maintained in said chamber for 20 seconds or more, and wherein said chamber has a plurality of air nozzles for blowing the conditioned air onto both sides of said web.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 6, wherein an expander roll for preventing wrinkles is provided in said conditioned chamber.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 6, comprising a water applicator for applying water or an aqueous solution or an aqueous dispersion of a pigment or the like onto the opposite surface to the cast-coated surface after said casting drum and before said conditioned chamber.